

We Claim:

1. Method for the conversion of cytosine bases in a nucleic acid to uracil bases, comprising:
 - a) binding the nucleic acid to a solid phase,
 - b) incubating the solid phase bound nucleic acid in the presence of sulfite ions whereby the nucleic acid is deaminated,
 - c) optionally washing the deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid,
 - d) incubating the deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid under alkaline conditions whereby the deaminated nucleic acid is desulfonated,
 - e) optionally washing the deaminated and desulfonated solid phase bound nucleic acid, and
 - f) optionally eluting the deaminated and desulfonated nucleic acid from the solid phase.
2. Method for the conversion of cytosine bases in a nucleic acid to uracil bases comprising:
 - a) incubating the nucleic acid in the presence of sulfite ions whereby the nucleic acid is deaminated,
 - b) binding the deaminated nucleic acid to a solid phase,
 - c) optionally washing the deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid,
 - d) incubating the deaminated solid phase bound nucleic acid under alkaline conditions whereby the deaminated nucleic acid is desulfonated,
 - e) optionally washing the deaminated and desulfonated solid phase bound nucleic acid, and
 - f) optionally eluting the deaminated and desulfonated nucleic acid from the solid phase.
3. Method for the conversion of cytosine bases in a nucleic acid to uracil bases comprising:
 - a) binding the nucleic acid to a solid phase,
 - b) incubating the solid phase bound nucleic acid in the presence of sulfite ions whereby the nucleic acid is deaminated,
 - c) optionally washing the solid phase bound nucleic acid,
 - d) eluting the deaminated nucleic acid from the solid phase,
 - e) incubating the deaminated nucleic acid under alkaline conditions whereby the deaminated nucleic acid is desulfonated.

4. The method according to any of claims 1 to 3 characterized in that the solid phase is a material comprising silica or glass.
5. The method according to claim 4 wherein the solid phase is a glass fleece or a glass membrane.
6. The method according to claim 4 wherein the solid phase is a magnetic glass particle.
7. The method according to claim 6 wherein the magnetic glass particle has a mean diameter between 0.5 μm and 5 μm .
8. The method according to claim 6 wherein the magnetic glass particle contains a magnetic object with a diameter between 5 and 500 nm.
9. The method according to claim 8 wherein the magnetic glass particle contains a magnetic object with a mean diameter of 23 nm.
10. The method according to claim 6 wherein the magnetic glass particle is manufactured by the sol-gel method.
11. The method according to claim 10, wherein said sol-gel method comprises:
 - a) suspending magnetic objects in a sol,
 - b) hydrolyzing the sol to cover the magnetic objects with a gel,
 - c) spray-drying the magnetic objects covered with a gel in a two-nozzle spray-drier, and
 - d) sintering the spray-dried powder to form a glass from the gel covering the magnetic objects.
12. A kit for performing a bisulfite reaction comprising a solution comprising bisulfite ions and a solid phase.
13. The kit according to claim 12 wherein the solid phase is a material comprising silica or glass.
14. The kit according to claim 12 wherein the solid phase is a glass fleece or a glass membrane.
15. The kit according to claim 12 wherein the solid phase is a magnetic glass particle.